AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A block of a plurality of blocks for constructing a flat structure, the flat structure being constructed by arranging the plurality of blocks in a flat state, each block, including said block, of the plurality of blocks having outer upper and lower peripheral surfaces thereof brought into contact with each other, said block of the plurality of blocks comprising:

a plurality of through holes for having linear or bar-like first stretching members inserted therein;

a row of recessed portions (i) formed on said outer upper and lower peripheral surfaces of said block, (ii) crossing an axial direction of said plurality of through holes, and (iii) for having, in a direction three-dimensionally crossing the axial direction of said plurality of through holes, second stretching members disposed therein; and

a plurality of cavities, each cavity of said plurality of cavities extending throughout said block and having an opening at said upper and lower peripheral surfaces of said block, such that each cavity of said plurality of cavities ~~cavity~~ crosses said row of recessed portions, such that each cavity of said plurality of cavities is arranged along a lengthwise direction of said row of recessed portions, and such that a width W1 of each cavity of said plurality of cavities is greater than a width W2 of each recessed portion of said row of recessed portions and extends beyond the width W2 of each recessed portion so as to cover the width W2 of each recessed portion, the width W1 and the width W2 being measured in a direction perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of said row of recessed portions.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) The block according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of through holes are provided in parallel with each other having intervals therebetween (i) in a through-thickness direction of a body of said block or (ii) in a direction perpendicular to the through-thickness direction of said body.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A panel comprising:

a plurality of said blocks as claimed in claim 11 arranged in a flat state, such that outer peripheral surfaces thereof are brought in contact with each other, and such that said plurality of through holes of each of said plurality of blocks are in communication with said plurality of through holes of another block of said plurality of blocks;

said first stretching members inserted into said plurality of through holes of said plurality of blocks; and

said second stretching members disposed in said row of recessed portions of said plurality of blocks,

wherein said plurality of blocks are bonded together with pressure by generating a tensile force on said first and second stretching members.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 14, wherein a gap filling agent for dispersing a reaction force is disposed between said blocks, of said plurality of blocks, that are adjacent.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 14, wherein reaction force members for generating the tensile force on said first stretching members are attached to portions of said outer peripheral surfaces, said portions of said outer peripheral surfaces having said reaction force members attached thereto being located on peripheral portions of said panel.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 16, wherein a block body having a solid structure is used as one of said reaction force members in a region adjacent to one of said peripheral portions of said panel.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 15, wherein said gap filling agent is a curable paste or a material deformable by the pressure generated by the tensile force.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 18, wherein said paste is a cement paste or liquid glass.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A method of forming a panel, the method comprising:

arranging a plurality of said blocks as claimed in claim 11 in a flat state, such that each block of said plurality of blocks is adjacent to another block of said plurality of blocks, such that a gap filling agent for dispersing stress is disposed between outer peripheral surfaces of said blocks of said plurality of blocks, and such that said plurality of through holes of each of said plurality of blocks are in communication with said plurality of through holes of another block of said plurality of blocks;

inserting said first stretching members into said plurality of through holes of said plurality of blocks while disposing said second stretching members in said row of recessed portions of said plurality of blocks; and

loading a tensile force on said first and second stretching members to bond said blocks of said plurality of blocks together with pressure.

Claim 21 (Cancelled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A panel comprising:

a plurality of said blocks as claimed in claim 12 arranged in a flat state, such that outer peripheral surfaces thereof are brought in contact with each other, and such that said plurality of through holes of each of said plurality of blocks are in communication with said plurality of through holes of another block of said plurality of blocks;

said first stretching members inserted into said plurality of through holes of said plurality of blocks; and

said second stretching members disposed in said row of recessed portions of said plurality of blocks,

wherein said plurality of blocks are bonded together with pressure by generating a tensile force on said first and second stretching members.

Claim 23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 15, wherein reaction force members for generating the tensile force on said first stretching members are attached to portions of said outer peripheral surfaces, said portions of said outer peripheral surfaces having said reaction force members attached thereto being located on peripheral portions of said panel.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) A method of forming a panel, the method comprising:

arranging a plurality of said blocks as claimed in claim 12 in a flat state, such that each block of said plurality of blocks is adjacent to another block of said plurality of blocks, such that a gap filling agent for dispersing stress is disposed between outer peripheral surfaces of said blocks of said plurality of blocks, and such that said plurality of through holes of each of said plurality of blocks are in communication with said plurality of through holes of another block of said plurality of blocks;

inserting said first stretching members into said plurality of through holes of said plurality of blocks while disposing said second stretching members in said row of recessed portions of said plurality of blocks; and

loading a tensile force on said first and second stretching members to bond said blocks of said plurality of blocks together with pressure.

Claim 26 (Cancelled)